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COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

Preparatory Commission

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION HELD FROM 20 TO 24 OCTOBER 1980

A. Opening of the session

1. The first session of the Preparatory Commission established by the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities in its resolution of 27 June 1980 was opened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 20 October 1980 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

B. Election of the Chairman

2. At its second meeting, on 22 October 1980, the Preparatory Commission elected H.E. Mr. J.-V. Gbeho (Ghana) as Chairman and agreed to defer to its next session the election of the other members of the Bureau.

C. Membership of the Preparatory Commission

3. At its third meeting, on 24 October 1980, the Commission adopted the following resolution:

1(I) - Membership of the Preparatory Commission

The Preparatory Commission

1. Recommends

(a) That its membership be enlarged to include all States listed in the annex to schedule D of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities;

(b) That membership also be open to any intergovernmental organization referred to in article 4 (b) of the Agreement. Such intergovernmental organizations shall not take part in decisions of the Preparatory Commission;

(c) That the number of its Vice-Chairman be increased to six;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to communicate these recommendations to all the States listed in the Final Act of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities;

3. Decides that these recommendations shall take effect on 1 January 1981 if, by that date, not more than one third of the States referred to in paragraph 2 have communicated their objection in writing to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

D. Preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation

4. Also at its third meeting, on 24 October 1980, the Commission adopted the following resolution:

2(I) - Preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation

The Preparatory Commission

Requests the United Nations General Assembly, in pursuance of its decision 34/446, to finalize, at its current session, the arrangements to make available to the Commission, for the period necessary to conclude its work, the advance of $1.8 million for financing the preparatory work required for bringing the Common Fund into operation. The disbursements against this advance shall be in accordance with the decisions to be adopted by the Preparatory Commission at its subsequent sessions in relation with its programme of work and the establishment of the Special Unit.

E. Provisional rules of procedure of the Commission

5. The provisional rules of procedure, submitted by the UNCTAD secretariat in document CF/PC/R.2, were not considered by the Preparatory Commission at its first session. In the course of the session, however, proposed amendments to these provisional rules of procedure were submitted by Argentina and Cuba (CF/PC/CRP.1 and Corr.1), and by the Asian Group (CF/PC/CRP.2). At the third meeting of the Preparatory Commission, on 24 October 1980, the sponsors indicated that in view of the adoption of the resolution on the membership of the Preparatory Commission some of their proposed amendments would perhaps need to be modified.

F. Credentials

6. At the third meeting, on 24 October 1980, the Chairman informed the Preparatory Commission that he had examined, in consultation with regional co-ordinators, the credentials of the representatives of the members of the Commission and had found them in good and due form. At the same meeting, the Commission, on the recommendation of the Chairman, approved the credentials.

G. Date, place and provisional agenda of the second session

7. At its third meeting on 24 October 1980, the Preparatory Commission agreed that its second session should be held in Geneva from 9 to 13 February 1981. It also agreed that the provisional agenda for that session should be as follows:

1. Election of the other members of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Work programme of the Commission

5. Structure of the Special Unit and financial arrangements

6. Other business

7. Date, place and provisional agenda of the third session of the Preparatory Commission

H. Membership and attendance

8. The following members of the Commission were represented at the session: Argentina; Australia; Bangladesh; Burundi; Canada; China; Colombia; Cuba; Germany, Federal Republic of; Ghana; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Netherlands; Nigeria; Norway; Philippines; Spain; Sudan; Tunisia; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Venezuela.

9. The following other States members of UNCTAD were represented at the session: Algeria; Angola; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Chile; Costa Rica; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Gabon; German Democratic Republic; Greece; Guatemala; Honduras; Ireland; Israel; Ivory Coast; Kenya; Kuwait; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malta; Mexico; Morocco; Nicaragua; Oman; Panama; Pakistan; Peru; Poland; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Singapore; Somalia; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; United Republic of Cameroon; United Republic of Tanzania; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Yugoslavia; Zaire.

10. The European Economic Community was also represented at the session.